

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SECRET Auth CS, USAF	
TALLY NO.	14
FILE NO.	

SUBJECT: (~~SECRET~~) Research and Development on Proposed Rand Satellite Reconnaissance Vehicle

TO: Assistant for Evaluation, DCS/D
ATTN: Colonel B. A. Schriever

DATE 17 MAR 1951

COMMENT NO. 1

FROM: Directorate of Intelligence, DCS/O

Lt Colonel Willetts/dcw/78061
AFORN-C/RC

1. Reference is made to:

a. Directorate of Intelligence Routing and Record Sheet, Comment No. 1, dated 8 February 1951, subject: Rand Proposal for Research and Development on a Satellite Reconnaissance Vehicle, in which the Intelligence Directorate recommended that the determination of the desirability of proceeding with the necessary research and development on this project be expedited.

b. Conference called by Colonel B. A. Schriever, Directorate of Research and Development, 16 February 1951, during which it was requested that additional specific requirements be submitted as to the intelligence information which would be required from such a satellite vehicle.

2. Specific requirements as to the type of intelligence information desired are as follows:

a. Photography of sufficient quality to enable trained interpreters to identify objects such as harbors, airfields, oil storage areas, large residential areas and industrial areas.

b. Have a capability to take and record search reconnaissance on large areas, i.e.:

- (1) To be able to cover the entire USSR in a period of several weeks.
- (2) To furnish continuous daytime observation of the USSR.
- (3) To record the information gained by the satellite in a permanent manner.

c. Have a capability to gather and record photography as an aide to radar scope navigation and bombing. This photography to be used as comparative photography and to fill in gaps where sufficient information is not now available to accurately plot radar scope returns.

d. Produce a photographic quality suitable for the revision of aeronautical charts and maps.

e. Gather and record photographically general weather information over the world. Cloud photography of 300 or 400 foot resolution would be invaluable for meteorological study.

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TO: Assistant for Evaluation, DCS/D
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3. Representatives from this Directorate visited the Rand Corporation on 2 March 1951, and discussed the proposed satellite with representatives of the Rand Corporation. Attached as Inclosure No. 1 is a photograph resulting from an experiment carried on by Rand. A city mosaic of Los Angeles, Inclosure No. 2, was photographed with a standard television camera. The resulting picture was relayed to Mt. Wilson and back to the studio where the image appearing on the monitoring screen was photographed. The attached photograph is considered by Rand to have a resolution of about 300 feet. This photograph has been examined by the photo interpreters of this Directorate and if similar quality is obtained by the proposed satellite, the minimum requirement for information referred to in paragraph 2 above will have been met.

4. It is noted that AFDRD, Item No. 2. of the Daily Staff Digest, dated 12 March 1951, mentions that Rand is starting development on three components of a satellite guided missile. Further, that completion of the development will require very little money but a lengthy period of time and that the project is being undertaken with a view toward the future when urgent need for superior reconnaissance will justify a satellite reconnaissance system. In view of the quality of the photograph referred to in paragraph 3 above, of the seriousness of the world situation today, and of the scarcity of photographic coverage available of the USSR, it is urgently requested that the project be undertaken with a view toward the present urgent need for such a reconnaissance system, rather than a future need.

2 Incls

1. Photo Print
2. City Mosaic (reduced one half fr original)

G. P. Cabell

G. P. CABELL
Major General, USAF
Director of Intelligence

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